

Grays Harbor dredging to restart beginning mid-July

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SEATTLE – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, announces that maintenance dredging in Grays Harbor will start again about July 16.

American Construction of Tacoma was awarded the contract for \$6 million and will be removing approximately more than 1 million cubic yards of material from the federal channel to ensure safe navigation. Maintenance dredging in this area began back in January but had to be suspended in February until now to protect fish resources.

The area to be dredged is part of the inner Grays Harbor reaches including Cow Point Reach, Cow Point turning basin and Inner Crossover reach. This is part of the annual inner harbor maintenance dredging, which is performed to provide deep draft access to Port Terminals 1, 2, 3, and 4, plus other commercial docks. This does not include the Port of Grays Harbor's area of responsibility, which is typically contracted separately.

American Construction will be using a clamshell dredge with bottom-dump barge disposal in open water. Dredging is scheduled to continue through February.

One of the Seattle District's primary missions is to maintain existing deep-draft navigation channels and harbors in the Pacific Northwest. These areas naturally silt in. Therefore, dredging is performed to maintain the depths needed to promote safe, reliable navigation. A significant component of Washington's economy depends on navigation and commerce, which in

turn depends on dredging the state's waterways, such as Grays Harbor.

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